

*C1*

-This application claims the benefit of Belgian Application No. 09700417 filed May 4, 1997, the entire specification of which is incorporated herein by reference.

At page 1 lines 23-29 delete the paragraph and substitute therefor:

*C2*

The NEUTREC® process [Solvay (Société Anonyme)] is an efficient process for purifying gases. According to this known process, sodium bicarbonate, in the form of a powder, is injected into the gas and the gas thus treated is subsequently conveyed to a filter for removal of the dust therefrom (Solvay S.A., booklet Br. 1566a-B-1-0396).-

## IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1, 2, 6 and 9 to read as follows:

*Sab 01 C3*

1. (Twice Amended) Solid pulverulent reactive composition for the purification of a gas, comprising sodium bicarbonate and a caking inhibitor for sodium bicarbonate and being substantially devoid of silica, said inhibitor comprising lignite coke and/or a magnesium compound selected from the group consisting of magnesium oxide, magnesium hydroxide, mixtures of magnesium oxide and magnesium hydroxide and magnesium hydroxycarbonate.

*C4*

2. (Thrice Amended) The composition according to Claim 1, wherein said magnesium compound is magnesium hydroxycarbonate.

*Sab 01*

6. (Twice Amended) A process for the purification of a gas, comprising introducing a reactive composition in accordance with Claim 1 into the gas and subjecting the gas to removal of dust.

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*C5*  
9. (Twice Amended) The process according to Claim 7, wherein the reactive composition is that of Claim 2.

Please add Claim 10:

*C6*  
*Rule 1.76*  
The process according to Claim 1 wherein said silica is one containing less than 0.48% of silica.--

Please delete the Abstract and substitute the following appearing on the next page.